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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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CITY PAGE 5

CLOSE CALL

After school bus carrying about 20 children tilts into open drain in Balagere, citizens demand clear timeline for road repairs

PAGE 5

UNEASY RIDE

Spotlight on sketchy regulations after bike taxi rider puts woman passenger in a spot with privacy-invading questions

PAGE 11

There are 500 cameras around commercial areas of Majestic, but BMTC bus bay section remains without surveillance, raising concerns over safety of women, children at transport hub which is often hotspot of crime

EYES WIDE SHUT in Majestic station

Officials say tender floated, cameras will be installed soon

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The Kempegowda (Majestic) bus stand, one of Bengaluru's busiest transit hubs with lakhs of daily commuters, continues to operate without adequate CCTV surveillance in its Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) section. The absence of departmental cameras in the bus bays has raised serious safety concerns, given the hub's high footfall and frequent reports of crimes ranging from theft to harassment.

Spread across a vast area and serving as a lifeline for passengers connecting to districts and neighbouring states, Majestic is a daily transit point for women, children, students, and migrant workers.

Police officers told BM that although CCTV cameras are in place at the entry and exit points, the BMTC Majestic bus bays remain inadequately covered, especially in sections where new-route buses operate and heavy crowding is common.

They said that monitoring, tracking incidents, and investigating complaints often relies on the limited footage available, which is not always sufficient. Over the years, mobile thefts, chain-snatching, pickpocketing, and even missing-person cases have been reported frequently at the bus stand.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

"In crowded zones like Majestic, surveillance is not just for deterrence but also for accountability when incidents occur — Police officer

Bad air days

City's air quality is slipping fast as it ranks lower each year in national list; experts say we need to fix emissions, dust, waste burning

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Despite receiving Rs 541.1 crore under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) over the last five years, Bengaluru has failed in improving its air quality.

The city has dropped to the bottom of the list of million-plus cities in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2025 ranking by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) released recently. Bengaluru, with a score of 145.1, has ranked 36, only above Kota, Kolkata, Howrah, Madurai, and Chennai.

The IT city has been slipping down on the list over the last three years -- in 2023, it was ranked 25, with a total score of 154.7, and it is today 11 places lower.

In 2024, with a total score of 155.1, Bengaluru ranked 28th on the list of cities with a population of more than 10 lakh.

Focus on 4 sectors

City-based air quality experts say the city needs to improve in all four sectors - biomass and municipal solid waste burning, road dust, vehicular emissions, and industrial emissions - with maximum weightage in the ranking process.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Timeless tale

Trimurti Kala Kendra, a premier institution for Indian classical arts founded in 2009 by the renowned Kathak exponent Dr Divya Choubey, is presenting its latest production 'Nayikaa', a celebration of the timeless expressions and emotions of women, depicted through the intricate rhythms and graceful storytelling of Kathak. **Where: CMRIT College Amphitheatre, AECS Layout, Brookefield; When: September 14, 4 pm**

02 Musical journey

Windmills presents an evening where Carnatic tradition meets the improvisational spirit of jazz and the raw soul of blues with 'Blues for Saraswathi' taking the audience on a journey across genres, moods, and traditions. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: September 12 and 13, 7 pm (Seating begins at 6.30 pm)**

03 Bollywood tunes

Armaan Malik, known for his diverse range of music from romantic chartbusters to high energy hits, will be performing live, taking the audience on a melodious journey. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: September 13, 6 pm**

04 Cultural tapestry

Through 'Avatarana', in her signature style, acclaimed storyteller/dancer Ramaa Bharadvaj brings together mystic insights, allegorical observations, and practical wisdom with humour to reanimate an ancient tale about Indian culture's artistic ancestry. **Where: Kappanna Angala, JP Nagar; When: September 14, 6.30 pm**

05 Groove on

Dark Light, one of the city's most dynamic music bands, will be performing a tribute to Linkin Park, celebrating the band's iconic music that has defined a generation. **Where: Indian Craft Brewery, Nagawara; When: September 13, 8 pm**

Paper GST hike sparks industry concern

18% taxation on paper could affect both traders and consumers says association, highlights potential rise in cost of books, classification disputes and pressure on micro and small businesses

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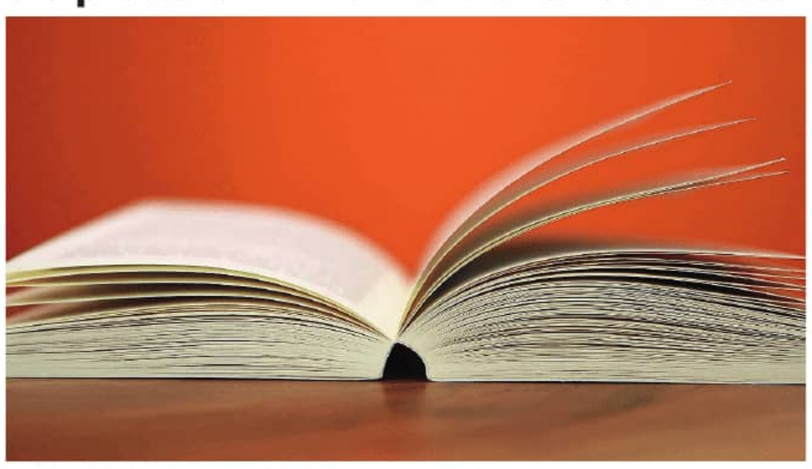

The Karnataka Offset Printers Association (KOPA) has welcomed the reduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on cartons, boxes, and cases from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, but cautioned that the steep increase on paper to 18 per cent will create a crippling inverted duty structure — where raw materials are taxed higher than finished goods.

Noting that such an imbalance will trap working capital, erode competitiveness, and could push nearly 30 per cent of micro and small units towards closure within a year, KOPA President Peter Anil Rego said that 92 per cent of India's printing and packaging units are micro and small businesses, collectively sustaining 2.5 million jobs and contributing Rs 1.2 lakh crore to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Industry data shared by KOPA underscores the concern. It stated that with paper inputs taxed at 18 per cent and packaging outputs at 5 per cent, nearly Rs 5,000 crore of working capital could be locked up annually. Refund delays of six to nine months would hit almost 80 per cent of small enterprises—most of them single-owner businesses already stretched thin. Paper demand has been shrinking at 5.6 per cent annually since 2020, and experts warn of a further 8 to 10 per cent decline if the new GST regime takes effect.

Adding to the uncertainty are classification disputes: while paper for exercise books and lab notebooks attracts nil GST, the same grade used for textbooks and stationery is taxed at 18 per cent. Nearly 60 per cent of traders face ambiguity, heightening compliance risks.

Rego stressed on the sector's wider importance, describing printing and packaging as the silent engine behind education, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), pharmaceuticals, retail, and exports—with packaging alone accounting for 65 per cent of India's Rs 80,000 crore paper market.

Highlighting the social costs, KOPA General Secretary Gopinath Ballarwad, said, "Paper is the soul of education, knowledge, and culture. Raising GST from 12 per cent to 18 per cent will directly burden over 200 million students, with school book prices set to rise 10 per cent to 15 per cent." He warned the hike could derail the government's vision of education for all, deepen inequality in learning opportunities, and add stress for families already struggling with rising education costs.

It is said that the amendment in the GST has not benefitted either the printer or the consumer, with the price instead having a spiralling effect on the consumer. Nearly 95 per cent of Indian printers are classified under the 'Manufacturer Services' category, specifically within the 9989 SAC code. If the GST rate for this classification is reduced from 18 per cent to 5 per cent, the overall cost of printed products will significantly decrease, benefitting the consumer.

The KOPA demanded that the Union Finance Minister reduce the GST on paper and paperboard to 5 per cent, in line with cartons and boxes, ensure a uniform rate across all paper products to eliminate classification disputes, and extend the 5 per cent GST rate to the entire Chapter 48 (Paper & Paperboard) to protect micro units and keep education affordable.

Age relaxation for police constable recruitment

The Karnataka government is set to relax the age criteria for police constable recruitment. The minimum age limit will be lowered from 19 to 18 years, while the maximum age will be raised to 27 for the general category and 30 for candidates from backward classes, SC, and ST communities. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara instructed senior officials to submit a proposal on these changes, marking a positive response to long-standing demands from aspirants. The revised limits will apply across all divisions, including Civil Police, City Armed Reserve (CAR), and Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP). With nearly 8,000 constable posts lying vacant, the government aims to implement these relaxations before fresh recruitment begins. **— BMB**

Spousal transfers to be considered for police personnel

In a major relief for police staff, the Karnataka government has approved inter-district transfers for constables and head constables who have completed at least seven years of service. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has directed the State DGP to ensure that cases involving married couples serving in the police department are given priority, with transfers granted to districts of their choice. For years, police families had been demanding such provisions, as existing rules lacked clarity. Though the Bommai government allowed inter-district transfers in 2022 with conditions, many remained unresolved. By formalising this policy now, the government aims to improve the work-life balance of lower-rank police personnel, marking a significant step toward their welfare. **— BMB**

200-bed mother and child facility coming up at KC General Hospital

A new 200-bed mother and child hospital is being built at KC General Hospital, Malleshwaram, at a cost of Rs 150 crore. The four-storey facility, spread across 12,834 sq metre with two blocks, is expected to be ready within one and a half years. Once operational, it will ease the burden on Vanivilas Hospital, which currently handles over 1,500 deliveries per month. The project, delayed due to COVID-related temporary structures and tree relocation, is now in progress with basement roof work underway. In addition to the maternal care unit, the campus will also house a Rs 35-crore 50-bed trauma care centre, a mortuary at Rs 4.28 crore, and a kitchen block at Rs 1.77 crore. The expansion will significantly improve healthcare access in North Bengaluru while reducing patient load on existing facilities. **— BMB**

BMRCL fare fixation committee report finally made public

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has published on its website the fare fixation committee report, nearly seven months after revising ticket prices. While BMRCL had demanded a steep hike of 105.5 per cent, the committee recommended a more moderate 51.55 per cent increase. Acting on the committee's advice, the state government forwarded the proposal to the Centre, which set up the panel to seek inputs from the public, experts, and BMRCL officials.

Metro fares were last revised in 2017, when the minimum was fixed at Rs 10 and the maximum at Rs 60. BMRCL argued that rising salaries, material costs, and debt

burdens justified a sharp hike, proposing to raise fares to a minimum of Rs 21 and a maximum of Rs 123. However, after deliberation, the revised fares—effective from February 9—kept the minimum at Rs 10 but increased the maximum to Rs 70, with hikes of up to 71.5 per cent on certain routes. The sharp jump triggered protests from commuters, forcing BMRCL to roll back some of the steepest increases following state government intervention. **— BMB**

Fire NOC mandatory for four-storey buildings

The Karnataka government has revised fire safety regulations by reducing the mandatory height requirement for obtaining a Fire No Objection Certificate (NOC) from 21 metres to 15 metres, effectively bringing four-storey buildings under its ambit. Henceforth, all educational institutions, hospitals, residential complexes, commercial establishments, industrial units, and warehouses above 15 metres must compulsorily secure an NOC from the Fire and Emergency Services Department. District fire officials will inspect such buildings and submit reports to regional commissioners, who will process approvals and ensure fee collection from building owners. The move comes in the wake of rising fire accidents across the state, which claimed 2,596 lives in the past two years and caused property losses worth Rs 734 crore. Fire stations received 2.87 lakh emergency calls in 2022–23, resulting in 404.44 crore worth of losses and 76 deaths, while 2.38 lakh calls were recorded in 2024–25 with 330.26 crore losses and 48 deaths. In total, over 2,500 people were killed and hundreds injured in fire-related incidents in just two years, prompting the government to tighten rules to enhance public safety. **— BMB**

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Flora-fauna haven Uttarahalli Lake sinks into sewage decay

Wildlife once thriving in Uttarahalli Lake is dwindling, with residents urging urgent action to restore natural habitats

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Residents of Uttarahalli living near Uttarahalli Lake have expressed concern over its worsening condition. Once home to rich biodiversity with lush green surroundings, turtles, fish, snakes, birds and other wildlife, the lake has now deteriorated severely due to sewage inflow, pollution and prolonged neglect. Residents warned that the situation poses a serious threat not only to the lake's ecosystem but also to the health of the community.

Residents said they had repeatedly reached out to officials of the civic body, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The lake is now under the jurisdiction of the GBA, but their appeals were ignored. Earlier this month, they submitted a petition signed by 180 residents, highlighting the deteriorating state of the lake. However, they allege that the civic body has failed to take any action, putting both the environment and public health at risk.

Residents disclosed that the lake is facing multiple threats due to continued neglect. The inflow of untreated sewage and storm water has contaminated the water, endangering aquatic life and degrading its overall quality. In addition, the accumulation of plastic, waste, and other pollutants has turned the lake into both an eyesore and a public health concern. Fallen trees and debris within the water remain uncleared, further disrupting the lake's natural ecosystem. Broken electric poles and damaged fencing around the lake not only pose safety risks but also make it easier for more waste to be dumped.

The KSPCB water quality report for July 2025 highlights that Uttarahalli Lake is under Class E — a category that indicates the water is fit only for irrigation, industrial cooling and controlled waste disposal, but is unfit for drinking, domestic use or sustaining aquatic life.

Nischith Ashok Kumar, a resident said, "As concerned residents, we are deeply troubled by the deterioration of this vital natural resource and its impact on local biodiversity and community well-being. We kindly urge the BBMP to take immediate

Locals warn of rising health dangers as petitions to authorities go unanswered and pollution overwhelms the waterbody

action to address these issues by halting the inflow of sewage into the lake and establishing an effective sewage disposal system, conducting a thorough clean-up to remove plastic, debris, and other pollutants, clearing fallen trees to restore the lake's natural condition, repairing damaged electric poles and fencing to enhance safety and prevent dumping, and implementing regular monitoring and maintenance to keep the lake clean."

Adding to the concern, Jagadeesha, a long-time resident of Uttarahalli, said, "Despite countless complaints and petitions, Uttarahalli Lake is being used as a drainage site in broad daylight. It is shocking that a major Bengaluru lake is allowed to be used as an open sewage drain. This inaction is costing us our health, our environment and the safety of our children."

Plastic and untreated sewage pollute the waters of Uttarahalli Lake

Speaking to BM, a lakes department official said, "The storm water drain is to be desilted and we have intimated the SWD team about the issue. The STP has been handed over to BWSSB and has been non-functional. There is a sewage problem as well which BWSSB should check. From our end, we are carrying out regular maintenance of the lake."

An official from the Storm Water Drain (SWD) department said, "We are in the process of laying a sewer line of higher capacity, as the existing one is inadequate. The work may take around three months since approvals are required before the bigger lines can be installed. One of the problems is also that sewage is entering from the buildings constructed adjacent to the SWD, there is no buffer zone to provide a sewerage system on both sides. However, we are preparing a DPR for the upgrade of the line to resolve the issue."

24+ tonnes seized, but plastic problem persists

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Bengaluru's ambitious plastic-free campaign, launched on August 15, has already led to the seizure of 24.57 tonnes of single-use plastic and the imposition of fines totalling ₹38.07 lakh, according to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) CEO Karigowda. Despite the crackdown, single-use plastics continue to flood city streets, exposing the scale of the challenge.

From August 15 to September 12 (28 days/672 hours), the seizures translate into an average of 36.5 kilograms of plastic confiscated every hour. On the financial front, the city has levied fines averaging ₹5,660 per hour over the same period. Yet, while the numbers highlight enforcement intensity, they also raise a stark question: why does plastic still dominate the cityscape?

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Enforcement personnel documenting plastic seizures in central Bengaluru

Enforcement machinery on overdrive

To enforce the ban, 27 special enforcement teams—led by Assistant General Managers of BSWML—have been conducting raids five days a week, targeting plastic manufacturers and wholesale dealers. In parallel, ward marshals and junior health inspectors carry out daily checks, imposing a minimum fine of ₹2,000 per violation. Between September 3 and 12, fines of ₹19.66 lakh were collected from 281 wholesale dealers and ₹18.41 lakh from 2,842 retail vendors. Officials pegged the seized stock's market value at ₹49.14 lakh, underlining the economic grip of the plastic trade.

Citizen participation and complaint redressal

Recognising that enforcement alone cannot drive change, the administration has appealed to citizens to shift to reusable cloth and paper bags. Complaints regarding plastic use and waste mismanagement are being tracked through a round-the-clock grievance platform, the Namma Bengaluru app, a toll-free helpline (1533), and a WhatsApp chatbot (9448197197). In August 2025 alone, 1,483 complaints were logged, of which 99% were resolved, while September has seen 515 complaints, with 82% addressed so far.

As part of broader sanitation reforms, the city advanced the scanning time for auto-tipper attendance to 5:30–6:30 am from August 25. This tweak has lifted attendance from 84% in August to 95% now, aligning collection more closely with citizen routines.

"While Bengaluru's numbers—36.5 kg plastic seized and ₹5,660 fines levied every hour—paint a picture of efficiency, the persistence of plastic on shop counters and street corners shows the magnitude of the challenge. The campaign is a significant step, but without stronger vendor compliance, citizen discipline, and affordable eco-friendly alternatives, the city's fight for a plastic-free future may remain an uphill climb," said Kshema K, a civic activist.

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Poster plague

Rajajinagar

Film posters plastered on walls at Basaveshwara Main Road junction, opposite National Public School, Rajajinagar, are not only defacing the city but also causing traffic distractions that could lead to accidents. Authorities must take action.

Street blocker

Rajarajeshwari Nagar

An abandoned car has been left unattended for over six months on 3rd Cross Street, 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, causing inconvenience to residents and raising safety concerns.

Monsoon mess

Vijaya Bank Layout

The road behind IIMB, near HDFC Bank in Vijaya Bank Layout, is in poor condition. Commuters face serious risks, particularly during the monsoon when waterlogging makes the situation worse.

Balagere bus scare sparks outrage

Residents say despite repeated complaints quality of road in area remains poor, endangering lives of commuters; demand urgent action from authorities

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Residents of Balagere, who have long protested poor infrastructure, faced yet another scare on September 12, when a school bus carrying about 20 children fell into an open drain. Though no one was injured, parents say they are tired of empty assurances and fear what could happen if such incidents turn worse.

Residents say that despite Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's recent visit, nothing has improved. Roads were hastily asphalted but the tar peeled off within days, exposing the same poor-quality work residents have protested against for years. Residents expressed frustration, stating they are fed up with the lack of change.

The incident has left many parents worried and even in a state of fury. Asha Gowda, resident of Obel Villa, Panathur, said that through live location updates shared in the parent group, she found out that the bus had skidded. She happened to be nearby, on her way to work, when the incident occurred. She noted that although the bus didn't completely topple and there were no injuries, the children were left in shock. "My two daughters, one in first grade and the other in eighth, were also inside," she said.

She added that the condition of the roads has put lives at constant risk. "The kind of infrastructure here is pathetic. We want our elected representatives to travel this stretch at least twice a week so they can see how children and adults are suffering," she said. She highlighted that despite multiple pleas, the situation remains the same. "It feels like a free roller coaster ride given by politicians in this area. They are playing with human lives while focusing only on collecting taxes. The least we deserve are safe roads," she said.

Bus carrying over 20 schoolchildren toppled in Balagere on Friday

Balagere residents say pothole-ridden roads have caused many accidents yet there has been no action taken

Residents pointed out that although repair work is underway, there is an open drain which remains completely filled with water—making it indistinguishable from the road and dangerously easy to drive over. "The accident happened because a drainage line under construction was not filled properly. Water had collected there and drivers could not make out the danger. The bus went over that part and slipped," said Sudeep Bhargava, a resident of Balagere, adding that civic authorities should have alerted residents about the lack of signboards or warnings. He said that due to the ongoing work, a two-lane stretch has been reduced to a single lane, making the traffic unbearable. "We are suffering every single day whether it's the road conditions or crossing the stretch. Even though the DCM and CM have visited this road, nothing has improved," said Bhargava.

Residents also pointed out that alternative routes are either poorly maintained or significantly longer—leaving them no choice but to rely on the same hazardous stretch.

Pavithra Holla, another resident, said the drains had been left incomplete, and after every rainfall, potholes and waterlogging make it difficult to distinguish between a harmless puddle and a dangerous ditch.

Arun Kumar, a resident of Sobha Dream Acres whose daughter was also in the bus, noted that there have been multiple such incidents in the area before, pointing out that in one case a man lost his hand in an accident and in another a woman suffered multiple fractures. "This is extremely horrifying. There is no proper drainage system or even footpaths here. In just a 2.5 km stretch, there are at least 15,000–20,000 flats, yet the infrastructure is in terrible condition," said Kumar.

Meanwhile, GBA officials attributed the incident to negligent driving. In an official statement, they said that a concrete road has been constructed near the BWSSB Water Treatment Plant, while drainage work, culvert installation, and residual road development are currently in progress. They added that the road is proposed to be widened 18 metres, and land acquisition for the same is underway. Until the process is complete, temporary RCC hume pipes are being installed to facilitate rainwater flow.

Live heart transported through metro for critical transplant

A live human heart was transported through Namma Metro late on September 11 to facilitate an emergency transplant. The organ was moved from Sparsh Hospital to Apollo Hospital, covering the stretch between Yeshwanthpur (YPI) and South End Circle (SPGD) metro stations.

The special run, identified as Train ID 12 (Train Set 29), departed YPI at 11.01 pm and reached SPGD at 11.21 pm, completing the journey across seven stations in just 20 minutes.

The operation was coordinated by the Assistant Security Officer, who worked with the Sparsh Hospital team to ensure smooth movement and security arrangements.

BMRCL officials said the effort highlights the metro's role in supporting critical medical emergencies by enabling quick and uninterrupted transport of organs across the city. **BMB**

Strict action against staff associating with criminals

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has cautioned that strict disciplinary action will be taken against any police personnel found to be associating with criminals. Addressing the monthly parade at the CAR grounds in Thanisandra on Friday, he said such behaviour tarnishes the department's image and sends the wrong message to society.

"You have joined the police force, and you must work together as one team. If staff are seen mingling with criminals, it sends a wrong message to society. Under no circumstances will such behaviour be tolerated," he warned.

The Commissioner also stressed the importance of preparedness during bandobast duty. He noted that many staff have been reporting without helmets or lathis, compromising both their own safety and that of the public. "First protect yourself, only then can you safeguard others. Simply wearing the uniform is not enough. You must be fully equipped, and officers must ensure proper checks before sending staff on duty," he instructed.

He also called on officers to balance professional and personal responsibilities, urging them to serve society with integrity while also giving time to family life. 'Khushi', a health campaign, has been launched to ensure regular medical check-ups for police staff.

The Commissioner's warning comes close on the heels of the incident in which a jail warder at Bengaluru Central Prison was arrested for smuggling drugs inside the jail premises.

According to police, the warder was caught with 100 grams of hashish oil that he attempted to pass on to an inmate. The case has raised serious concerns about insider links with criminal networks and has prompted calls for stronger internal vigilance. **–BMB**

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Bengaluru's PRR-2 road project stalled amid farmer resistance

Govt revisits project with fresh survey, but hits road blocks as farmers hold on to their stand on compensation issue

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Nearly 4,000 farmers were earlier issued notices, many still demanding compensation under the 2013 Land Acquisition Act for fairness

After nearly two decades of delays, Bengaluru's PRR-2 project sees renewed movement with surveys underway. However, unresolved land acquisition disputes, farmer protests, and compensation challenges still cloud its construction timeline

The long-pending Peripheral Ring Road-2 (PRR-2) project in Bengaluru is finally showing signs of movement, with the government outlining its current status and future course in the Legislative Council. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar informed members that joint measurement surveys (JMC) are underway for the road's construction, even as land acquisition and compensation issues continue to delay progress.

The project, first notified on December 12, 2005, and November 15, 2006, has faced repeated setbacks due to objections and disputes over compensation. A final notification was issued on July 27, 2011, to acquire 321 acres and 10 guntas between Magadi Road and Mysuru Road. However, notices for other parcels are yet to be issued, prolonging uncertainty for landowners and raising questions about the government's long-term approach.

Farmers affected by the project remain divided in their demands. Some have sought higher compensation, while others want their lands exempted from acquisition. Many have insisted on compensation under the 2013 Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had earlier issued notices to nearly 4,000 farmers, seeking consent to surrender land in exchange for either cash or developed residential plots, though responses have been mixed.

Officials maintain that the PRR-2 is a vital link intended to ease Bengaluru's crippling traffic congestion and connect major arterial routes. Yet, legal disputes, procedural hurdles, and disagreements over compensation continue to stall implementation and frustrate residents awaiting relief.

While the government's renewed push suggests momentum, officials have stopped short of confirming a start date. For now, the project remains a balancing act between infrastructure needs and the competing demands of those whose land lies in its path.

PRR-2 Project Snapshot

- Initial Notifications Issued: December 12, 2005 & November 15, 2006
- Final Notification (Partial Stretch): July 27, 2011
- Notified Land Area: 321 acres, 10 guntas (Magadi Road–Mysuru Road stretch)
- Total Farmers Issued Notices: ~4,000
- Current Status: Joint Measurement Survey (JMC) in progress
- Farmer Demands: Higher compensation per acre or project abandonment
- Proposed Compensation Modes: Developed residential plots OR cash payment

IN BRIEF

Congress edges closer to council chairman

With the swearing-in of four newly nominated members, the ruling Congress has secured a majority in the Karnataka Legislative Council, reaching the crucial 37-mark in the 75-member House. The BJP-JDS bloc holds 36 seats, while one seat each is with the Speaker and an Independent. Although Congress now has the numbers, it must wait until the next session to stake claim for the Chairman's post, currently occupied by Basavaraj Horatti with BJP-JDS backing. If Horatti resigns earlier, electing a new Chairman will be straightforward; otherwise, Congress may push for his removal. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is reportedly weighing leadership changes—considering Council leader SR Boseraju for Chairman while inducting BK Hariprasad into the cabinet. Other contenders, including S Ravi, are also under discussion. -BMB

Landowners get choice to pick plot in KHB Township

The Karnataka Housing Board has developed a 1,211-acre township in Surya Nagar Phase-4, Anekal taluk, introducing for the first time a system that allows landowners to pick plots of their choice. Following a 50:50 sharing model, half the developed plots go to landowners who surrendered land, while the rest remain with the Board. The project has created 18,890 sites, with 16,140 available for allotment, excluding corner, commercial and civic amenity plots. Landowners from Indlavadi village, whose 53 acres were earlier reserved for a sports complex, can now choose plots in designated sectors. Eligible landowners must collect tokens to exercise choice; otherwise, sites will be reserved by the Board. Once allotment is complete, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will hand over title deeds. Cases under litigation remain reserved. -BMB

State restarts jobs with new quota

The Karnataka government has resumed direct recruitment for state civil service posts after a nine-month pause caused by internal reservation implementation. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms has issued a circular asking all departments and recruitment agencies to proceed with earlier government orders on Scheduled Castes' internal reservation. Under the revised framework, the 17% SC quota will be subdivided into 6% each for sub-categories 'A' and 'B', and 5% for sub-category 'C', covering 101 identified sub-castes. Reservations for other groups, including OBCs such as Lingayats, Vokkaligas, Kurubas, minorities, Scheduled Tribes, and the general category, remain unchanged. The move follows cabinet approval of the Justice Das Commission report, ensuring pending government appointments can now move forward. -BMB

Karnataka caps number of guests on stage

The Karnataka Cabinet has capped the number of dignitaries on stage at official events to nine, aiming to prevent overcrowding and chaos. In exceptional cases, it may extend to 13, with responsibility on the concerned ministry or department. The move comes after criticism over messy arrangements, notably during the RCB cricket team felicitation. -BMB

HC warns news anchor over minority scheme report

HC gives another lifeline to Sudhir Chaudhary and Aaj Tak to defend themselves against FIR for misreporting about Karnataka's Svalami Sarathi Scheme

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The Karnataka High Court on Friday gave a final opportunity to television channel Aaj Tak and its former consulting editor Sudhir Chaudhary to press their petitions seeking quashing of an FIR registered against them in 2023. The case stems from a news programme that allegedly misrepresented the State government's Svalambi Sarathi Scheme as being aimed exclusively at minorities.

The FIR followed a September 11, 2023 broadcast in which Chaudhary reportedly claimed that the scheme was meant only for minorities and not Hindus, accusing the government of appeasement. The Administrative Officer of the Karnataka State Minorities Development Corporation Ltd lodged the complaint, calling the telecast misleading and disruptive to communal harmony.

The Svalambi Sarathi Scheme provides subsidies for vehicle purchases, and investigators noted that the programme had failed to reflect the scheme's wider scope. The FIR booked Chaudhary under Sections 153A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code, which cover promoting enmity and spreading public mischief, offences carrying a maximum sentence of three years.

During the hearing, Justice JM Khazi said the matter would be listed again on October 13 and warned that if the petitioners failed to argue, the case would be dismissed for non-prosecution. Chaudhary's lawyer stressed that the earlier oral undertaking of "no precipitative action" remained valid and that he had been cooperating with police despite multiple summons.

The complainant's counsel, however, asked for a written assurance of full cooperation. Additional Special Public Prosecutor BN Jagadeesha also pointed out that the matter had been specifically listed for Friday's hearing and urged against further delay. The court underlined the need to bring clarity to the issue at the earliest, noting that prolonged adjournments would serve no purpose when the allegations were already under investigation.

The court disposed of an earlier plea seeking a stay on investigation after noting that two identical petitions were filed in 2023 and 2025. The first plea was treated as withdrawn. At a previous stage, Senior Advocate Uday Holla, representing Chaudhary, had argued that the broadcast drew on budget documents that initially included SC/ST communities under the scheme. He said the report highlighted later changes restricting it to minorities, though clarifications aired subsequently.

The bench observed, however, that the original broadcast failed to mention SC/ST beneficiaries, leaving an impression that Hindus were excluded. It remarked that news coverage must avoid creating resentment and warned that such reporting could convince an "average man" that minorities were being unduly favoured. The court also pointed out that the scheme's incentives were not confined to minorities but extended to corporate entities as well, underlining the importance of responsible journalism when covering sensitive subjects.

The FIR alleges that Chaudhary intentionally aired the segment to provoke disharmony. The matter will return to the High Court on October 13, which it has declared the last opportunity for the petitioners to present their arguments.

Bengaluru–Mysuru farmlands witness surging demand

Farmlands on the Bengaluru–Mysuru Road, located just five minutes off the highway, are fast becoming hotspots for profitable investments. According to developers, such properties not only guarantee a doubling of capital over time but also offer multiple benefits—scope for farming, the option of building farmhouses, and access to resort-like amenities.

Unlike traditional investments in apartments and city sites, farmland investments are proving to be more lucrative, driving urban buyers to explore plots beyond city limits.

Rising demand for weekend homes

With city life getting increasingly congested, many Bengaluru and Mysuru residents are looking for serene weekend getaways. Farmhouses with resort facilities nestled amidst greenery are emerging as the new weekend homes. Buyers are combining leisure with income generation by cultivating crops such as sandalwood, fruits, vegetables, and spices on their lands.

Developers are also offering ready-to-build farmhouses along with resort facilities, giving buyers the flexibility to either construct a farmhouse, cultivate sandalwood, or do both. This dual advantage has fueled demand, particularly among city dwellers who wish to spend weekends in tranquil surroundings while securing long-term returns.

Sandalwood boosts investments

One of the major attractions is the possibility of cultivating sandalwood. Once seen as a risky venture due to security concerns, sandalwood farming is now being offered in safe and managed environments, with developers themselves handling protection and upkeep. The recent police guidelines permitting security cover for sandalwood trees on private lands, not just government or forest areas, have further boosted confidence among investors. "This makes farmland investment safer than ever before," said a developer, adding that many buyers prefer sandalwood plantations over farmhouses for assured future income.

Infrastructure push adds to value

Another developer said, "The value of farmlands along the Bengaluru–Mysuru corridor is further rising due to rapid infrastructure development. Projects like the new Peripheral Ring Road around Mysuru are enhancing connectivity, making these areas more accessible. With upcoming plans to expand Mysuru into a larger urban hub under the 'New Mysuru' development blueprint, the surrounding farmland is expected to appreciate significantly in the coming years."

For investors, the formula is simple: one farmland investment can deliver fourfold benefits—land appreciation, leisure in the form of a weekend home, income through commercial crops like sandalwood, and access to resort-style facilities. This unique combination is making farmlands one of the most sought-after investment avenues today. Another developer added, "Farmland is no longer just about agriculture. It's about peace, profit, and prestige—all rolled into one. With the right infrastructure and secure management, it is the smartest investment one can make today." **Prakash VL**

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Upcoming GST rules set to transform real estate

A set of forthcoming GST reforms, effective from September 22, 2025, is likely to significantly benefit India's residential, retail, and office real estate markets. Anuj Puri, Chairman of the ANAROCK Group, described the changes as a "major positive shift" for the sector, noting that they will enhance transparency and simplify compliance.

The revised framework aims to streamline taxation, eliminate classification disputes, and reduce the administrative burden on developers. This, in turn, will enable faster project execution and improved customer satisfaction across real estate segments.

Lower cement prices under GST reforms likely to benefit affordable housing projects

Much-needed boost

The residential sector is set to be the biggest beneficiary of the new GST reforms, particularly in the affordable housing segment. Reduced GST on construction materials like cement is expected to lower build costs by 3–5%, offering much-needed relief for developers. This comes at a critical time, with the share of affordable homes in total sales dropping from 38% in 2019 to just 18% in 2024. If these savings are transferred to buyers, demand in this crucial segment could revive significantly. Another key reform is the simplified GST structure, shifting from a complex five-slab system to two main rates—5% and 18%. This improved transparency promises greater pricing clarity, boosting consumer confidence and encouraging first-time buyers, especially in Tier-II and Tier-III cities where housing demand has been steadily rising.

Commercial and retail

While the overall outlook is positive, some complexities remain for commercial real estate. The sector, which currently attracts 12% GST with Input Tax Credit (ITC), has seen recent amendments that eliminate ITC on commercial property leasing. This retrospective change could increase operational costs and rental prices for businesses. The introduction of the Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) for commercial rentals by unregistered suppliers, which places an 18% GST burden on the tenant rather than the landlord, also adds a layer of compliance for businesses renting commercial spaces.

The retail real estate sector, however, is poised to benefit from improved project viability due to lower input costs. This reduction in construction expenses for shopping centers and retail complexes may lead to more competitive rental rates for tenants. Additionally, the GST rationalisation is expected to streamline supply chains and lower logistics costs, enhancing the overall efficiency of retail operations. **BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

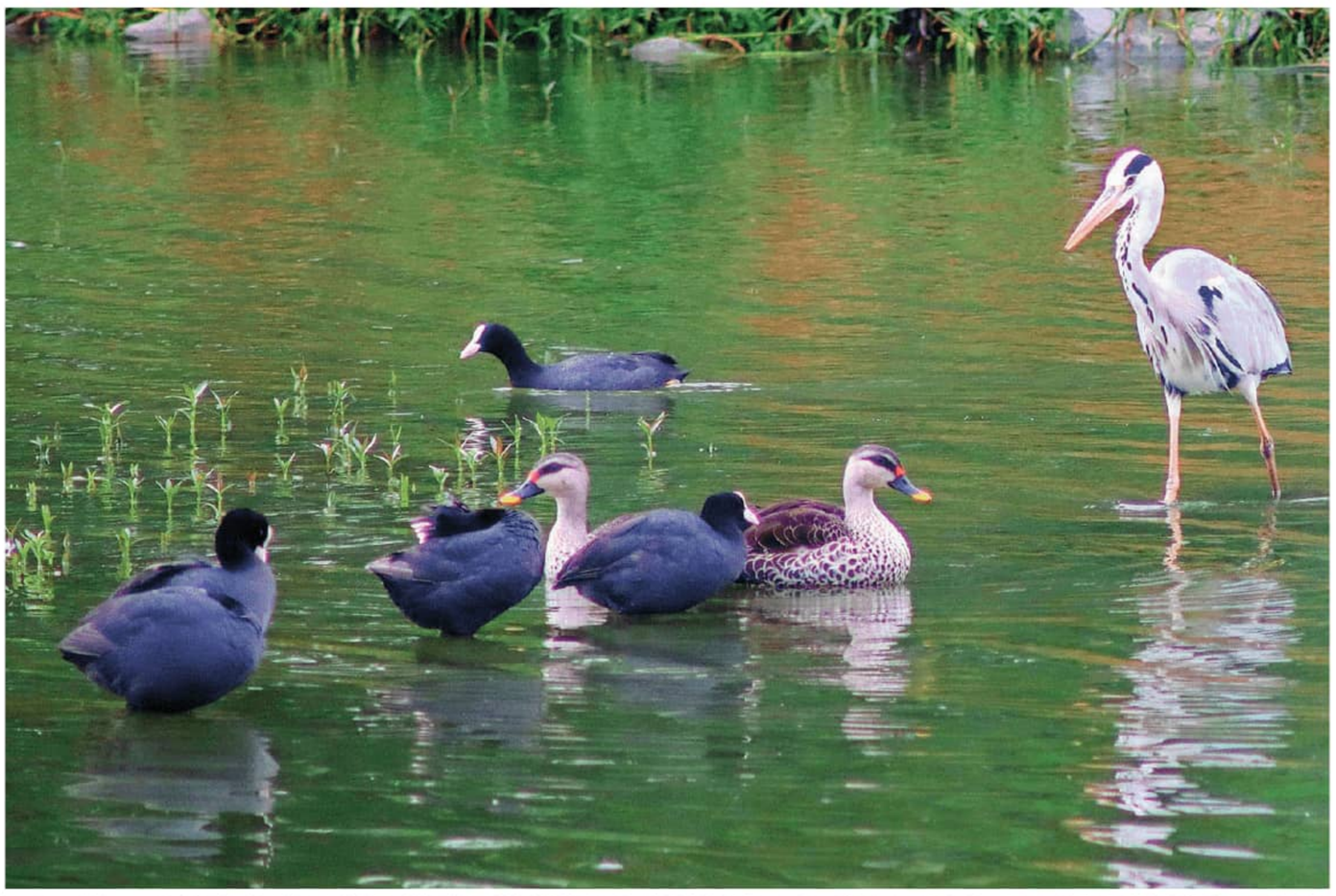
and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

HARMONY AT SARAKKI

Our reader shares a tranquil image of a Grey Heron watching over a pair of Indian Spot-Billed Ducks and a group of Eurasian Coots at Sarakki Lake. The scene beautifully captures how diverse species coexist in harmony, undisturbed by each other's presence—a gentle reminder of nature's balance and quiet companionship.

The picture was clicked by reader **Sridhar Comaravalli**



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Kotanur residents still await proper roads after two decades of neglect

Despite paying taxes and repeated appeals, families in Kotanur's 2002 layout remain sidelined as civic authorities prioritise vacant neighbouring plots

Kotanur residents of a layout formed in 2002, comprising around six cross streets and 64 plots, are expressing frustration over the lack of basic infrastructure despite nearly two decades of development. Houses and apartments have come up across the layout, accommodating more than 50 families and over 200 households on the seventh cross alone. Yet, proper roads remain absent, leaving residents struggling with connectivity issues and facing difficulties during monsoon seasons.

Repeated complaints ignored

Residents say they have repeatedly approached the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and lodged grievances on the Bangalore Smart App, with the latest complaint filed on August 23, 2025. While the app records complaints and assigns them to officials, most remain in the "registered" status or are marked "closed" without any action. Despite phone calls, personal visits, and persistent follow-ups, no progress has been made, leaving residents feeling ignored by the administration.

Disparity in infrastructure

Adding to their frustration, roads in nearby areas of the same ward—where many plots remain vacant—are now under construction. While residents welcome the work, they are puzzled why their fully occupied layout, which pays taxes regularly, continues to be overlooked. The stark disparity has deepened a sense of neglect among families who have waited years for basic amenities and equal civic recognition.

Political promises unfulfilled

Efforts to escalate the issue politically have also failed. Residents recently met Minister Krishna Byre Gowda to raise their grievances. Though the minister assured them that action would follow, residents say no tangible progress has been made, with no signs of immediate road development.

Call for urgent action

Frustrated families now demand immediate intervention to ensure road construction begins without further delay. They argue that infrastructure development must be equitable and inclusive, rather than favouring newer or less populated neighbourhoods. As one resident alleged, "The ongoing neglect has turned a once-promising residential layout into a stark example of administrative inaction in the city's civic planning, exposing the shortcomings of urban governance." **— BMB**

Ironically, vacant plots nearby enjoy new roadworks, while Kotanur's fully occupied streets remain ignored despite regular tax contributions

DID YOU KNOW?

NASA's Mars rover Perseverance has uncovered its most promising evidence yet of potential ancient life on Mars. Exploring the Neretva Vallis River channel inside Jezero Crater, the rover drilled into reddish, clay-rich mudstones of the Bright Angel formation, collecting its 25th rock sample. Scientists detected organic carbon and unusual specks enriched with iron phosphate and iron sulfide—compounds that, on Earth, often result from microbial activity. While researchers emphasize that non-biological processes could explain these features, they say the sample is the strongest candidate so far for signs of ancient microscopic life. The rover, operating since 2021, cannot directly detect life. Instead, it collects samples in titanium tubes for eventual study on Earth. Originally scheduled for the 2030s, NASA's sample-return mission has slipped into the 2040s due to costs, now estimated at $11 billion. Ten tubes have already been cached on Mars as a backup. Though not conclusive, scientists call the discovery "exciting" and a milestone in the decades-long search for life beyond Earth. They stress that detailed lab analysis—whether on Earth or via advanced instruments sent to Mars—will be crucial to determine if these chemical signatures were truly left behind by ancient microbes. **— AP**

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Party SMS not blocked, clarifies Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

The Claim: Congress alleged that TRAI rejected its application to circulate SMS links of a documentary on the "stolen" Maharashtra Assembly election. The party suggested this reflected coordinated government suppression, citing "synchronisation" between TRAI, the Home Ministry, and the Election Commission to conceal election fraud.

The Fact: TRAI clarified it never received any application regarding sending SMS to a political party's Maharashtra cadre about alleged election fraud. The regulator emphasized that it does not approve individual SMS templates and noted the rejection was made solely by service provider STPL.

Congress alleged that TRAI rejected its application to circulate SMS links of a documentary on the "stolen" Maharashtra Assembly election. The party suggested this reflected coordinated government suppression, citing "synchronisation" between TRAI, the Home Ministry, and the Election Commission to conceal election fraud.

TRAI recently said it did not receive any application pertaining to sending SMS to a political party's Maharashtra cadre on how the 2024 Assembly election was allegedly "stolen," as the regulator asserted that it does not approve individual SMS templates.

TRAI's rebuttal came after Congress on Sunday claimed that TRAI had rejected its application for sending out SMSes to its Maharashtra cadre with the link to a documentary on how the Maharashtra Assembly elections were allegedly "stolen," citing the grounds that it was "content related to protest."

Without naming Congress, TRAI in a post on X said, "No application was received by #TRAI for sending SMS to a political party's Maharashtra cadre on how the 2024 Assembly election was 'stolen'." TRAI pointed out that the said application was submitted to one of the service providers, who rejected it.

"TRAI was at no stage involved in this process. In fact, TRAI does not deal with approval of individual message templates," the regulator clarified in a series of social media posts. TRAI reiterated that it does not approve individual SMS templates and tagged a screenshot of the rejection by STPL, a service provider.

"As per the photo, it is clear that it was rejected by the service provider, STPL," TRAI wrote in its post, hash-tagged '#FactCheck'. Congress had also claimed that the rejection indicated "telltale signs of guilt of Maharashtra election fraud" and that there were coordinated moves by various arms of the government to suppress information. Chairman of Congress's data analytics department, Praveen Chakravarty, said the party wanted to send SMSes to its Maharashtra cadre with the link to the YouTube documentary "How the MH 2024 election was stolen." As per government process, an application was filed with TRAI for approval. He claimed TRAI had rejected permission to send the SMSes, saying it was "protest content."

"How is there such perfect synchronisation between the Home Ministry, Election Commission, and Telecom regulator to suppress? Does one need more telltale signs of guilt of Maharashtra election fraud than such coordinated moves by various arms of the government to suppress and hide information?" Chakravarty said on X.

— PTI

K-RERA ruling brings hope for distressed plot owners

After decade-long delay, K-RERA directs Shriram Land to complete essential infrastructure, giving buyers hope for long-awaited water, electricity, sewage facilities

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The Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has directed SL Plotted Development Projects Private Limited (SLPDPPL) to complete all promised amenities and provide basic infrastructure to the project as per the original layout plan and sale deed commitments within six months from the date of judgment. The order, issued on August 13, follows complaints lodged by 52 people who purchased plots at Shriram Godhuli Layout near Kathriguppe village in Chikkaballapur taluk.

"The brochures, sale deeds, agreements, and submissions by the complainants establish that the promised basic amenities—electricity, water, sewage system and others—remain incomplete. Even the most essential infrastructure such as the overhead water tank, electricity connections and sewage treatment plant is absent. The Authority finds that despite the lapse of more than 10 years, there is no tangible progress on any of the promised amenities," the K-RERA judgment read.

The Authority has further directed the respondents to submit a detailed project completion report, along with a timeline of work and financial resources, within 30 days from the date of this order.

Meanwhile, the complainants have welcomed the K-RERA judgment, calling it a much-needed intervention after years of delays.

"The latest order gives us immense hope as K-RERA has asked Shriram Land to fulfill its obligations within six months. The order also allows buyers to seek compensation claims under adjudication," said Raghavan, a plot owner at Shriram Godhuli Layout.

Sujaya N Jagadish, another plot owner and RTI applicant, expressed relief: "Investing in plots from Shriram Land's SLPDPPL, trusting the esteemed Shriram brand, has left over 450 plot owners—predominantly senior citizens—in distress despite years of follow-ups with RDPR, RTI, and RERA departments of the state government. The KRERA order has brought a sense of hope and respite."

> **"Investing in plots from Shriram Land's SLPDPPL, trusting the esteemed Shriram brand, has left over 450 plot owners – predominantly senior citizens – in a distressing situation**
>
> —Sujaya N Jagadish, plot owner and RTI applicant

A fellow plot owner, requesting anonymity, stressed the need for vigilance. "Government watchdogs must closely monitor DTCP, RDPR's Gram Panchayat, ZP, and others to prevent covert dealings between developers and officials. Truth inevitably emerges when victims persist with determined efforts. The regret is the years lost, a setback to the nation's progress," the owner said.

Vaidyanathan, another plot owner, described the judgment as pathbreaking. "The plot owners of Shriram Godhuli now have the necessary legal rights to enforce SLPDPPL of Shriram Land to fulfill their obligations as promised while selling the plots," he remarked.

Regional connectivity takes priority over drone corridors

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The Ministry of Civil Aviation has clarified that there is currently no proposal to establish dedicated drone corridors or hubs in Karnataka for purposes such as medical supply delivery, disaster response, or agricultural services. The statement came in response to a query in the Lok Sabha regarding the creation of drone-specific routes in the state.

Boost to regional connectivity

Although drone corridors are not on the agenda, the Centre emphasised ongoing efforts to expand regional air connectivity in Karnataka under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN). A total of nine underserved and unserved airports in the state has been identified for development and operation of RCS flights. These include Bidar, Mysuru, Vidyanagar, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Shivamogga, Vijayapura, and Karwar. Of these, seven airports—Bidar, Mysuru, Vidyanagar, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, and Shivamogga—are already operational under UDAN.

Small aircraft, new airstrips

Under UDAN 5.2, bids have been received for small aircraft services (less than 20-seaters) from Bellary and Kolar airstrips. The state government has been asked to provide consent and ensure land availability for further development of these facilities, the reply added.

The government has also identified several potential locations for water aerodromes, including Byndoor (Udupi), Ganeshgudi (Supa Dam Reservoir), Kabini Dam Reservoir, Kali River estuary (Karwar), Malpe (Udupi), Mangaluru (Dakshina Kannada), and Sigandur (Linganamakki Dam Reservoir).

> **A total of nine underserved and unserved airports in the state has been identified for development and operation of RCS flights**

Seaplane services planned

Under UDAN 5.5, bids have been received for seaplane services from Mangaluru (Dakshina Kannada) and Kabini Dam Reservoir. Letters of Intent (LoIs) have already been issued for these routes, which are expected to strengthen connectivity in Karnataka's hilly and coastal regions, according to the Lok Sabha reply.

Steps to bolster cybercrime centre

Court directs Karnataka Cyber Command Centre to ensure stability, transparency, and seamless integration of cybercrime services

The High Court of Karnataka has stressed that the State's Cyber Command Centre (CCC) must develop into a strong and effective institution against cybercrime and not be reduced to another bureaucratic setup. Delivering detailed directions on Wednesday, Justice M Nagaprasanna emphasised that continuity of leadership, transparency, and integration of essential services are crucial for the CCC's success.

He cautioned that frequent transfers of officers would hamper efficiency, adding that the head of the CCC must remain in charge for at least one to two years to stabilise the system. "The head of the CCC and his team must not be overnight de-positioned, without the consultation of the head of the CCC. I make it clear that it is consultation and not information," he observed.

The court directed that cybercrime helpline 1930, widely used by victims of online fraud, be fully integrated with the Police IT system. Currently, complaints filed via the helpline run parallel to those lodged at police and cybercrime stations, causing duplication. Justice Nagaprasanna ruled that all complaints should come under the CCC for uniform handling.

Transparency, the court underlined, is non-negotiable. It highlighted concerns over corruption in the freezing and de-freezing of bank accounts during cyber fraud investigations. To address this, all calls to the 1930 helpline must be recorded and preserved under the Police IT framework. The court also suggested a zero FIR for every helpline complaint to ensure formal acknowledgment and follow-up.

"The CCC should be robust, people-friendly, deft and iron-handed to deal with cybercrimes," Justice Nagaprasanna observed. The court directed the CCC head to file a status report by September 24, outlining steps taken to integrate the helpline, police IT systems, and CEN stations. —BMB

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Bengaluru ranked 36 this year on air purity list

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Improper disposal and burning of solid waste continues to be an issue in Bengaluru. Road dust from recurring potholes due to a poor drainage system and heavy vehicular movement adds to the problem," said Dr Piyush Bhardwaj, Research Scientist in the Air Quality team at Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

Assessment of the city's air quality is done based on sectors such as biomass and municipal solid waste burning, road dust, dust from construction & demolition waste, vehicular emissions, emissions from industries, other emissions, public awareness, and improvement in PM10 concentrations for assessment.

Experts warn that although Bengaluru's geographical location and meteorological factors have acted as saviours so far, these advantages may soon vanish due to climate change, subjecting the city to extreme air pollution.

"Vehicular emission and dust

pollution in Bengaluru is as high as any other metro city in the country. Currently, these pollutants drift away, keeping the city's air quality good. However, if we continue with current emission rates, we might soon face extreme air pollution scenarios. Mumbai was once in a similar position, but climate change brought the city to its knees concerning air pollution," said Dr Gurfan Beig, professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), IISc campus.

As per the data from MoEFCC, Bengaluru so far has used Rs 430.91 crore out of the total Rs 541.1 crore released by the central ministry so far. While Rs 158.11 crore was used in 2024-25 under NCAP, Rs 158.11 crore was put to use in 2024-25, followed by Rs 46.15 crore in 2023-24, Rs 115.73 crore in 2022-23, and Rs 5.99 crore in 2020-21.

Notably, the Climate Action Cell of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has received Rs 124.5 crore under NCAP to prepare an annual action plan FOR 2024-25 to tackle air pollution in Bengaluru. The funds received under the 15th Finance Commission Air Quality Grants will be utilised for road improvement works to control dust pollution, greening of open spaces, improvement of traffic junctions, and various other measures to bring down air pollution levels in the city.

Experts say that citizens too have a vital role in maintaining their city clean. "Not only should we practice responsible waste disposal, but we must also take ownership of our role in ensuring minimal vehicular emissions. Every citizen, for instance, should obtain a pollution-under-control certificate from an authorised emission testing centre. Moreover, driving responsibly will also lead to fewer emissions," added Dr Bhardwaj.

Time for surveillance upgrade

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A senior officer stressed that CCTV footage often serves as the first lead in crime investigation at transit points. "In crowded zones like Majestic, surveillance is not just for deterrence but also for accountability when incidents occur," the officer added.

The adjoining KSRTC bus station has 37 cameras installed, though officials admit footage is stored only for a limited number of days. Security experts point out that while other major hubs like metro stations and railway terminals have upgraded to stronger surveillance systems, the BMTC section of Majestic has lagged for years.

Issue gains attention

The issue gained fresh attention recently after State Women's Commission Chairperson Dr. Nagalakshmi Choudhary visited the premises. Shocked to find no cameras in operation, she warned that such lapses put women and children at risk of harassment and even trafficking.

She directed BMTC officials to immediately restore surveillance, ensure clean toilets and drinking water facilities and display emergency helpline numbers prominently. The Commission has also asked for a compliance report with photographs after remedial steps are taken.

BMTC officials claimed that there are already more than 500 cameras in and around the Majestic premises, mostly installed by commercial establishments. "These cameras are functional and are used by police for investigations. However, the BMTC bus section still lacks dedicated departmental cameras. A tender has been floated, and once the process is completed, cameras will be installed in these sections as well," an official said.

Police officers confirmed that they currently depend on the cameras maintained by commercial establishments as well as those of the department for crime investigation.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Srinivas N, R/at 22, 4th main 2nd stage Vinayaka layout Nagarbhavi 9th block Bengaluru-560072, have changed my minor son's name from S ROHIT RAAGHAV to S ROHIT RAAGHAV REDDY vide affidavit dated 11/09/2025 sworn before advocate/notary Renuka.C at Bengaluru.

I, CHIRAG KANDOI S/O Bimal Kumar Kandoi R/at #007, Aryan Tower,V Nagenahalli Main Road,Hebbal, Bangalore-560032. I have changed my name from CHIRAG KANDOI to CHIRAG KUMAR KANDOI. I affirm that both name belongs to same person vide affidavit dated 14-08-2025 sworn before notary. LEELA Bengaluru

I, Srinivas N, R/at 22, 4th main 2nd stage Vinayaka layout Nagarbhavi 9th block Bengaluru-560072, have changed my minor son's name from S TANMAY to S TANNMAYA REDDY vide affidavit dated 11/09/2025 sworn before advocate/notary Renuka.C at Bengaluru.

I, Anand Bhatt, S/o Batukbhai Bhatt , residing at C 601,Suraj Ganga Socrates, Vajarahalli, BSK 6th Stage, Bangalore South, Thalaghattapura, Bengaluru 560109 declare that Anand Bhatt and Anandkumar Batukbhai Bhatt refer to the same person. Henceforth, I will use Anand Bhatt for all legal purposes

I SREEDEVI VENUGOPAL R/O Flat No.401 4th Floor Sai Raksha Comforts Nanda Kumar Layout Arehalli Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name as SREEDEVI JAYAPRAKASH vide Affidavit dated 09/09/2025 before Notary S N MADHU Bangalore.

I, Viren Mukesh Goklaney S/O, Mukesh Goklaney R/o 7/15 Palace Cross Road, Chandavarkar Layout, Bangalore 560020 have changed my name to Viren Goklaney vide affidavit dated 19-03-2025 sworn before advocate D.S Chandrakanth

I, Bhagyalaxmi Uppin R/o 1275, 3rd Flr, 2nd cross, HAL 3rd stage, New thippasandra, B'luru-560075 have changed my name to Bhagyalaxmi Veeranna Uppin Affidavit Dt.12/09/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I SHRISTI BHEEMASEN HUBLI R/o PRATHAM SHIVINDRA SF 01 NO 12 MIG 1ST STAGE KHB COLONY BASAVESHWARNAGAR BENGALURU - 560079 have changed my name to SRISHTI BHEEMASEN HUBLI.

I, Ganesan Vadivel s/o Vadivel, R/o No.49, 2nd main, Govt press layout, Ullal main road, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Ganeshan. Affidavit Dt.12/09/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Leela Shanthilal W/O, Shanthilal Tater R/o No 19 Suganvilla 1st Main 5th Cross Kempegowda Nagar T.dasarahalli Peenya Dasarahalli Bengaluru - 560057 have changed my name to Lalitha Devi.

I, Ms. Vidhula V. Koti, daughter of Mr. Viresh C. Koti, Shivagiri, Behind Ragile Electronics, Unkal, Hubli-580031 have changed my name to Ms. Shakunthala Koti for all future purposes.

I Saravanan Balasubramanyam, R/o No.370, 11th A Cross, 17th Main, F Block, Sahakar Nagar, Bangalore 560092, have changed my name to Saravanan Balasubramanian.

I Amjad Pasha Hussain S/O, Hussain Baig R/o No 201 8th B Main Road Gurappanapalya Dharmaram College Post Bengaluru - 560029 have changed my name to Amjad Pasha.

I, Ashok Prakash Chitragar s/o Prakash Marutirao Chitragaar R/o Flat.007, 1st main, 2nd park, Govt press Lyt, Ullal road, Bengaluru 560056 have changed my name to Ashok Prakash Chitragaar. Affidavit Dt.12/09/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Pooja Sagar R/o #4, Giligaru, Bellanne, Shivamogga, Karnataka-577430, have changed my name to Pooja Sagar Nagaraj.

I, Jadav Ruchitaben Chandrakantbhai r/o Flat no 23131, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Tower-23, Whitefield-Sarjapur Main Road, Gunjur, Bangalore-560087, have changed my name to Jadav Ruchita Chandrakantbhai.

LOST & FOUND

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Suneeta Dinakar Giriraju W/o Dinakar Giriraju, residing at No.501, Srinivas Apt., G.M.Palya, Byappanahalli, Bengaluru, stating that, original sale deed of the property document (Sy. No. 29, Site No. 39, Khata No. 283/3, Nagappareddy Layout, Kaggadaspura, Bengaluru) was lost at G.M.Palya, while taking Xerox on 05.03.2025. In this regard, I have filed a complaint (PO1411250600735) to Byappanahalli police station on 10.09.2025. If any finds the said document, please contact the above address or call to **99001 46908 / 96860 20003**.

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Bike taxi rider corners woman passenger with uncomfortable queries

Campaigners call for consistent regulatory mechanism, better monitoring, grievance redressal, background checks to make bike taxi rides safer

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

IN FOCUS
SAFER COMMUTES

State government has oscillated between permitting and restricting bike taxi services

A recent incident involving a Rapido bike taxi driver has reignited concerns over the safety of women passengers using app-based bike taxi services in the city. A young woman commuting home through the popular service was allegedly subjected to a barrage of intrusive personal questions by her driver, including remarks on her relationship, caste, and even her sexual history.

According to her account, the harassment began soon after she got on the bike. The driver repeatedly asked questions about her personal life, enquiring whether she was in a relationship for marriage, and whether she had been sexually active. She texted her partner during the ride but chose not to confront the driver directly for fear of retaliation.

The matter took a further disturbing turn when the passenger, unable to pay the exact fare, was compelled to take down the driver's personal number in order to transfer the balance. "He not only got access to her mobile number but also dropped her at her residence, meaning he now has both her contact details and home address," said her partner.

This case underscores the recurring anxieties surrounding bike taxis.

Harder to regulate

Activists and urban safety campaigners point out that while cab aggregators have at least some level of monitoring, bike taxis are harder to regulate. "Unlike cars, where in-app SOS features and GPS tracking provide a level of assurance, bike taxis expose women passengers to greater vulnerability because of their physical proximity to the rider and the lack of barriers," said Prerana Khaji, a marketing professional, who often uses bike taxis.

Legal experts add that the regulatory framework around bike taxis in Karnataka remains inconsistent. The state government has oscillated between permitting and restricting these services, leaving a grey zone in which companies operate without robust accountability mechanisms. "Drivers are often loosely vetted, and grievance redressal systems are weak. It creates an environment where women passengers may hesitate to complain, fearing inaction or reprisals," said a lawyer familiar with transport law.

In response to past complaints, companies like Rapido have assured customers of stringent background checks and a responsive complaints process. However, passengers allege that follow-up on harassment cases is often opaque. In this case too, the victim is considering both a complaint to Rapido and escalation to local police if the driver attempts further contact.

Police officials have long maintained that passengers should immediately approach law enforcement in such cases. "Any sexual or caste-based harassment falls under the ambit of criminal law. Citizens should not hesitate to file complaints, we will ensure their safety," said a police officer.

SOCIALTATTLE

Dr Aniruddha Malpani, MD · 1d
The only way to get these Govt babus to take action is to drag them to Court for being derelict in their duty
Pulakeshinagar site becomes mini landfill, schools face danger - Bangalore Mirror
bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com
Pulakeshinagar site becomes mini

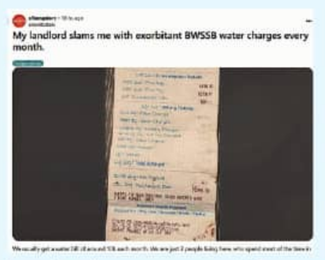
BANGALORE MIRROR TAGGED

A story in BM has evoked an angry response from a reader, who has a good suggestion for 'derelict' babus: https://x.com/malpani/status/1966036180815753412?t=oA5Pc1z38FvAGIJMhoYE5Q&s=08

THAT WENT VIRAL

AX user brings out the other side of the story as they tweet about a Bengaluru auto driver who spent over one hour to help woman recover her lost AirPods despite a language barrier: https://x.com/palak_malhotra8/status/1965855284334834029

Palak Malhotra
@palak_malhotra8
Everyone says Bangalore auto drivers are rude if you don't know Kannada...
I don't speak a word, and yet one spent 1.5 hrs, cancelled rides, and
chai got my lost AirPods back...
Here's the story
@peakbengaluru @rapidobikeapp
12:39 AM · Sep 11, 2025 · 2,119 Views



A Reddit post by a Bengaluru tenant has touched a raw nerve. The tenant has accused their landlord of fraud after receiving ₹15,800 water bill for a two-member home https://www.reddit.com/r/bangalore/comments/1neieg4/my_landlord_slams_me_with_exorbitant_bwssb_water/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=mweb3x&utm_name=post_embed&utm_term=1&utm_content=1

Bengaluru's work culture takes a new turn as a woman is spotted working on her laptop inside a theatre. Audience surprised as a woman was seen working on a laptop during a movie screening in Bengaluru. Also on Reddit: https://www.reddit.com/r/bangalore/comments/1ncmwzk/woman_working_on_laptop_in_theater_blore_work/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web3x&utm_name=web3xcss&utm_term=1&utm_content=share_button

INBRIEF

Food poisoning: 80+ school children hospitalised

More than 80 school children were admitted to the hospital due to suspected food poisoning in Belagavi and Vijayanagar districts on Friday.

About 60 students residing at the government-run Morarji Desai Residential School at Hirekodi village in Belagavi district have been hospitalised after the students suddenly fell ill after having breakfast at the hostel.

The students, both boys and girls, complained of stomach-aches and uneasiness. They were immediately shifted to the government hospital in Chikkodi town. The doctors have begun the treatment, and sources confirmed that all students are out of danger.

Congress MLC Prakash Hukkeri visited the hospital and monitored the treatment of school children. . The health and school authorities are yet to ascertain the exact cause of food poisoning.

Another incident has been reported from the Government Primary School in E Bevinahalli village, Harapanahalli taluk, Vijayanagar in the north Karnataka region. PTI

Activist seeks SIT probe into four hostel deaths in Dharmasthala

Social activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarody has lodged a complaint with the Special Investigation Team (SIT), seeking an inquiry into four unexplained deaths that allegedly occurred in hostels in Dharmasthala between 2006 and 2010, police said on Friday.

According to police, the Belthangady-based activist submitted a complaint at the SIT office in Belthangady on Thursday night.

Thimarody alleged that the deaths, reported from Gayatri, Sharavati and Vaishali hostels in Dharmasthala village, were not investigated in accordance with legal procedure.

In his submission, Thimarody claimed that the deceased were declared as 'unknown persons' and their bodies buried through the local Gram Panchayat without post-mortem or registration of First Information Reports (FIRs).

Only Unnatural Death Reports (UDRs) were filed in the four cases, he alleged. The complaint, supported by documents obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act, called upon the SIT to register FIRs and initiate a detailed investigation into each case. The activist has also alleged that the handling of the incidents by authorities at the time was irregular, as it did not adhere to the standard protocol for unnatural or suspicious deaths. The SIT is examining the complaint. PTI

Woman murders husband, calls it tiger attack for damages

A shocking incident of a woman killing her husband and falsely claiming he died in a tiger attack to seek compensation money was reported from Mysuru on Friday.

The incident took place in Chikkahejjur village in Hunsuru taluk of the district. The accused wife has been identified as Sallapuri, and the deceased husband is 45-year-old Venkataswamy. Police investigation revealed that the woman had poisoned her husband and later confessed that she killed him to obtain the hefty compensation provided by the government for deaths caused by wild animal attacks.

The police stated that the couple worked as labourers in areca nut fields. On Monday, a tiger was sighted in the Hejjur village.

The accused claimed that her husband went missing and that the tiger might have killed him and dragged the body away to an undisclosed location. The police and forest department sleuths launched a joint operation to track Venkataswamy's body. Since it was raining, the sleuths could not detect any tracks in the area where the deceased was last seen. While searching in the vicinity of Venkataswamy's house, they found his body hidden in a cow dung pile behind the house. After grilling the wife, Sallapuri confessed to the murder. –IANS

Moving car goes up in flames near CM's home

Panic gripped commuters near the Chief Minister's residence on Palace Road this morning after a moving car suddenly caught fire. A software engineer, Sachin, and his driver had a narrow escape in the incident reported in the High Grounds police limits.

Police said Sachin was travelling from Koramangala to the Sub-Registrar's office in Ganganagar around 11.30 am when smoke began to billow from the car's engine near Wilson Manor Bridge service road. Alert to the danger, the driver immediately pulled over, allowing both to exit just in time.

Moments later, flames engulfed the vehicle. Though the driver attempted to open the bonnet, the fire spread rapidly, forcing him to retreat. Sachin managed to retrieve some documents and belongings before the blaze intensified.

Fire and emergency services personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames, but by then nearly 75 per cent of the car was gutted. Local residents were alarmed to see the vehicle burning in the middle of the road.

High Grounds police have registered a case and are investigating the cause of the fire. BMB

BEAUTY SLEEP ISN'T A MYTH

Sleep medicine expert explains how rest keeps your skin healthy and youthful

Have you ever woken up after a night of poor sleep, glanced in the mirror and thought, "I look tired?"

You're not imagining it.

I am a neurologist who specialises in sleep medicine. And though "beauty sleep" may sound like a fairy tale, a growing body of research confirms that sleep directly shapes how our skin looks, how youthful it appears and even how attractive others perceive us to be.

What happens during sleep

Sleep is not just down time. Your body moves through distinct stages that serve different restorative functions. Deep, slow-wave sleep is the primary stage during which the body prioritizes tissue repair, muscle recovery and collagen production.

Growth hormone is released during this sleep stage, with most daily secretion occurring in the early part of the night. This hormone drives the body's repair and rebuilding processes, helping to heal tissues, restore muscles and boost the production of collagen, the protein that keeps skin firm and elastic.

Slow-wave sleep also creates a unique hormonal environment that benefits the skin. Cortisol, the body's main stress hormone, falls to its lowest point during this stage. Lower cortisol protects collagen, reduces inflammation and supports the skin barrier. At the same time, higher levels of growth hormone and prolactin, a hormone that helps regulate the immune system and cell growth, enhance immune function and tissue repair, helping skin recover from daily stressors.

The skin–sleep connection

The skin is your body's largest organ, and it works hard while you sleep. Adequate sleep promotes hydration and barrier function, helping your skin maintain moisture and resist irritation. In contrast, sleep deprivation increases water loss through the skin, leaving it drier and more vulnerable to damage and visible signs of aging.

Sleep also plays a role in acne, a common skin condition that affects people of all ages. Poor sleep can raise inflammation and stress hormones such as cortisol, both of which may worsen breakouts. Consistent, restorative sleep, on the other hand, supports your skin's ability to regulate oil production and recover from irritation.

Collagen repair and elasticity also depend heavily on adequate rest. In one study, short-term sleep restriction, defined as just three hours of sleep per night for two nights in a row, reduced skin elasticity and made wrinkles more noticeable.

Chronic sleep deficiency, also known in sleep medicine as insufficient sleep syndrome, refers to getting fewer than seven hours of sleep per night for at least three months, accompanied by daytime fatigue or impaired functioning. This state disrupts collagen production, weakens the skin barrier and fuels low-grade inflammation that undermines healing.

Studies show that the hormonal disruptions that occur with sleep loss elevate cortisol and accelerate oxidative stress, an imbalance between cell-damaging molecules and the body's defenses, while impairing the very processes that keep skin resilient. Over time, these changes accelerate biological aging and leave the body less resilient to daily stressors.

Your face tells the story

Sleep loss does not only affect how skin functions. It also changes how the face appears to others. Controlled studies show that even after a few nights of reduced sleep, others consistently rated them as less attractive, less healthy and more fatigued. Common cues include paler skin, darker under-eye circles, red or swollen eyes, drooping eyelids and downturned mouth corners.

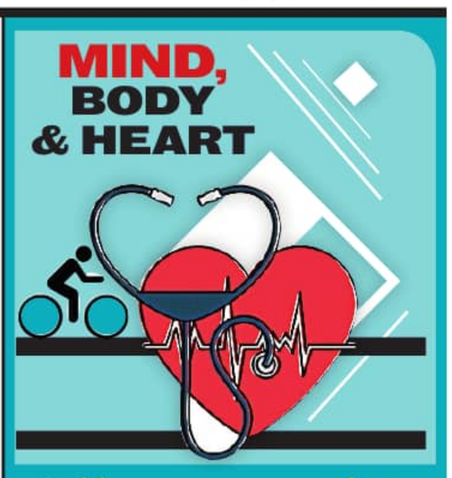
These signals are subtle but socially significant. Observers are less inclined to interact with or approach someone who looks sleep-deprived. Sleep also affects empathy and aesthetic perception, meaning that people who are well rested not only view others more positively but are also, in turn, viewed more positively by others. This reciprocal effect may help explain why job interviewers, dates, or even friends tend to respond more favorably to a well-rested face.

Sleep even influences how we perceive ourselves. People with poor sleep often report lower satisfaction with their own appearance.

Supporting your health

Prioritizing sleep is a powerful and accessible way to support appearance and overall health. So the next time you consider trading sleep for a few extra hours of work or entertainment, remember that your skin, your health and even your social presence will benefit from those hours of rest.

(Joanna Fong-Isariyawongse, University of Pittsburgh, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Swaps for acne

1. Cow's milk to unsweetened milk

Cow's milk contains natural hormones, including insulin like growth factor, which is important for growth and development, along with creating overstimulation of oil glands in some people, leading to clogged pores and acne flare ups. Dairy also has compounds that can increase inflammation, which doesn't help if your skin is already sensitive or prone to breakouts. Switching to plant-based alternatives like unsweetened almond or oat milk can make a huge difference for your skin.

2. Flavoured yogurt for Greek yogurt

Flavored yogurts are packed with sugar, they can increase the sugar level in your body with an increase in oil production, which leads to skin breakouts. Switching them to plain, unsweetened yogurt can cut out all sugar and get the same texture as flavored yogurt. Greek yogurts are high in protein, and they help stabilise blood sugar levels, plus they contain probiotics that can support a healthy gut. A balanced gut can influence inflammation throughout the body, including your skin. Over time, this swap can help calm irritation, reduce redness, and even improve the overall texture of your skin.

3. Ice cream to frozen banana

Ice cream is comfort food, loaded with sugar and dairy, which can lead to acne in sensitive individuals. While, frozen banana is a simple and delicious alternative that will satisfy your craving without breaking out your skin. Just freeze ripe bananas and blend them until they get creamy, like soft-serve ice cream. You can add plant-based milk, a pinch of cinnamon, or berries for extra flavour. Bananas are actually sweet and packed with vitamins and minerals and are great for the digestive system. Over time this swap can reduce inflammation, preventing new breakouts. —Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Just 4 days of junk food can mess up your memory, cognitive skills: Study

Love to binge on cheeseburgers and fries? Beware, just four days of these fatty foods can rewire the brain's memory hub -- leading to risk of cognitive dysfunction, according to a study.

The research led by the University of North Carolina (UNC) in the US suggests that fatty junk foods can affect the brain almost immediately, well before the onset of weight gain or diabetes.

The results open the door to early interventions that can prevent even long-term memory loss associated with obesity, which is mainly driven by Western-style junk food rich in saturated fat.

The findings, published in the journal Neuron, showed that a special group of brain cells in the hippocampus -- called CCK interneurons -- become overly active after eating a high-fat diet (HFD), due to an impaired ability of the brain to receive glucose (sugar).

This overactivity disrupts how the hippocampus processes memory, even after just a few days of a high-fat diet, said Juan Song, Principal Investigator and professor of pharmacology at UNC School of Medicine.

The discovery also showed that a protein called PKM2, which controls how brain cells use energy, plays a key role in this problem.

"We knew that diet and metabolism could affect brain health, but we didn't expect to find such a specific and vulnerable group of brain cells, CCK interneurons in the hippocampus, that were directly disrupted by short-term high-fat diet exposure," Song said, who is a member of the UNC Neuroscience Center.

"What surprised us most was how quickly these cells changed their activity in response to reduced glucose availability, and how this shift alone was enough to impair memory," added Song.

For the study, the team placed mouse models on a high-fat diet resembling fatty junk food before starting behavioural testing.

Within four days of eating a high-fat diet, results showed CCK interneurons in the brain's memory hub became abnormally active. The research also shows that restoring brain glucose levels actually calmed down overactive neurons and fixed memory problems in mice.

The study found interventions like dietary modifications or pharmacological approaches may be effective in preserving brain health for obesity-related neurodegeneration. Notably, researchers discovered that dietary interventions like intermittent fasting periods following a high-fat diet were sufficient to normalise CCK interneurons and improve memory function. —IANS

The one that got away— Actor Channing Tatum shared that 'one of the biggest mistakes' of his career was saying no to Guillermo del Toro's Beauty and the Beast. The version was never made, he clarified

That did not age well

Diana Penty takes down double standards of film industry: 'Women pushed aside once they hit 30s'

Diana Penty recently spoke out against Bollywood's long-standing double standards, pointing out how female stars are often judged more for their looks than their talent, pushed aside once they hit their 30s, and offered roles that don't truly showcase their skills.

Talking to Hindustan Times, Diana shared about her character in her upcoming show where she may be skilled at her work, but she's still treated as nothing more than an attractive face and even asked to just smile. The actress admits that this mirrors real

life too. She explained how female actors are often introduced on stage only with compliments about their looks—words like beautiful, stunning, or gorgeous—while their talent and craft are rarely highlighted. For her, it's flattering but also limiting. She believes women deserve to be recognised not just for how they look, but for the performances and hard work they bring to the table.

A playful scene

A fun scene in the show sees Diana and Tamannaah Bhatia taking on Neeraj Kabi's liquor baron character. Tamannaah, who plays someone in her 30s, teasingly calls his 50-something character 'uncle.' But instead of brushing it off, he cheekily fires back by calling her 'aunty.' Diana says this playful moment isn't just for laughs—it also mirrors real life, where plenty of men struggle to gracefully accept their age.

When told how male actors often continue playing heroes well into their 60s, while women in their 30s are usually cast as mothers. Diana immediately pointed out how quickly female stars get slotted into 'mother of three' roles. She explained that it's not something she tries to fight—because the system seems to work the way it is. Instead, she believes the best way forward is to quietly make choices about the kind of work she wants to be part of.

—ETimes

On a socials break

Actor Anushka Shetty, known for her roles in projects such as "Arundhati", "Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty" and "Baahubali" franchise, said she is "stepping away" from social media to "reconnect to the world and work beyond the scrolling".

Shetty, who most recently featured in Krish Jagarlamudi's directorial "Ghaati", penned a handwritten note and shared a picture of it on her Instagram handle on Friday.

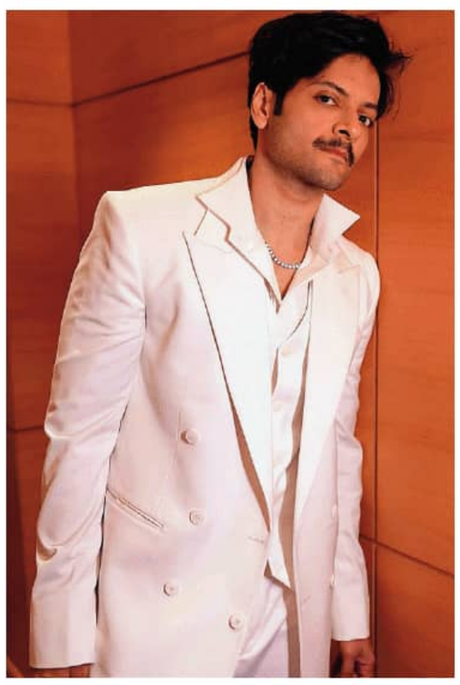
It read, "Trading blue light to candle light... Will be stepping away from social media for a bit, just to reconnect to the world and work beyond the scrolling, to where we all actually started. See you all soon with more stories and more love....always forever...Smile always. Love Anushka Shetty."

"Love.... always forever," the 43-year-old actor captioned the post.

Shetty's "Ghaati" was released on September 5 and features the actor in the role of Sheelavathi. The film is presented by UV Creations and produced by Rajeev Reddy and Sai Babu Jagarlamudi. It also stars Vikram Prabhu in the pivotal role.

—PTI

Role of cinema in reshaping taboos



Bollywood actor Ali Fazal took to social media to highlight the powerful role of cinema and storytelling in challenging societal taboos and empowering displaced communities.

In his latest post on Instagram, he emphasized how thoughtful narratives can help marginalized groups, particularly women and children affected by conflict, regain dignity and find a voice in society. Ali shared a couple of photos from the special screening of his upcoming Hollywood film "Rule Breakers" at the UK Parliament with MP Alice McDonald.

In the caption, the 'Fukrey' actor shared that he recently participated in a discussion focused on the rehabilitation of Afghan women and children, highlighting the importance of providing STEM education for displaced kids in conflict-affected regions. He emphasized how cinema and storytelling can play a vital role in challenging societal taboos and reshaping narratives. Ali Fazal wrote, "For the screening of

#RuleBreakers at the UK parliament. Along with the one and only @roya.mahboob_official whose story was brought to life by Bill Gutentag . And having met the honourable MP Alice Mcdonald and Lord Wajid Khan without whose support none of this would've happened."

IANS

A tale of friendship, sacrifice, and love

Director MD Sridhar, known for action movies, makes a comeback to Sandalwood after a gap of six years with this family-oriented movie that gives importance to elements such as friendship, love, and sacrifice. There are no dialogues laced with innuendos or an overdose of action scenes that glorify violence. He has made sure all the actors stick to the script faithfully. Beautiful locations and lilting music add value to the movie. Had the director reduced the runtime by 10 to 15 minutes, the movie would have been an even better entertainer.

The movie is about two friends Murali (Achyuth Kumar) and Shankar (Ravishankar Gowda). They join the same college on the same day, graduate on the same day, marry on the same day and even live on the same road. However, Shankar's wife Anita (Lakshmi Siddaiah) and Murali's wife Kusuma (Swati Gurudutt) quarrel over a petty issue and become sworn enemies.

When Kusuma gets pregnant, her mother-in-law wants her to give birth to a baby boy. She gives birth to a baby girl while Anita gives birth to a baby boy. Murali and Shankar decide to swap the newborn babies. Meanwhile Anita and Kusuma decide to bring up their children as sworn enemies.

JAMBU CIRCUS

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** MD Sridhar
- **ACTORS** Praveen Tej, Anjali Anish, Avinash, Achyuth Kumar, Ravishankar Gowda, Swati Gurudutt
- **Duration** 123 minutes
- **Certification** U

Initially, Akash (Praveen Tej) hates Ankita (Anjali Anish) who happens to join the same college. Later, they fall in love. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to their parents.

Praveen Tej, who has been associated with Sandalwood since 2009, has tried his best. Anjali Anish, who acted in Manada Kadalu and Padavi Poorva, has acted well. Praveen Tej and Anjali Anish vie with each other in scenes where they hate each other and quarrel. Achyuth Kumar and Ravishankar Gowda are convincing as friends who go to any extent for the sake of their friendship. Swati Gurudutt and Lakshmi Siddaiah, as sworn enemies who realise their follies, provide good support.

It is worth a watch for families.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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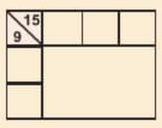
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

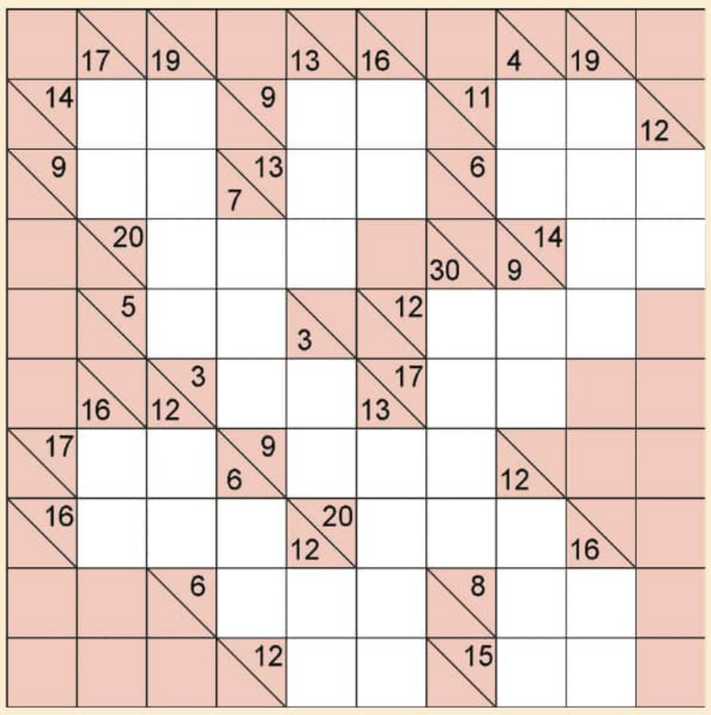
81^0.12 + 81^0.13 = ?

Kakuro

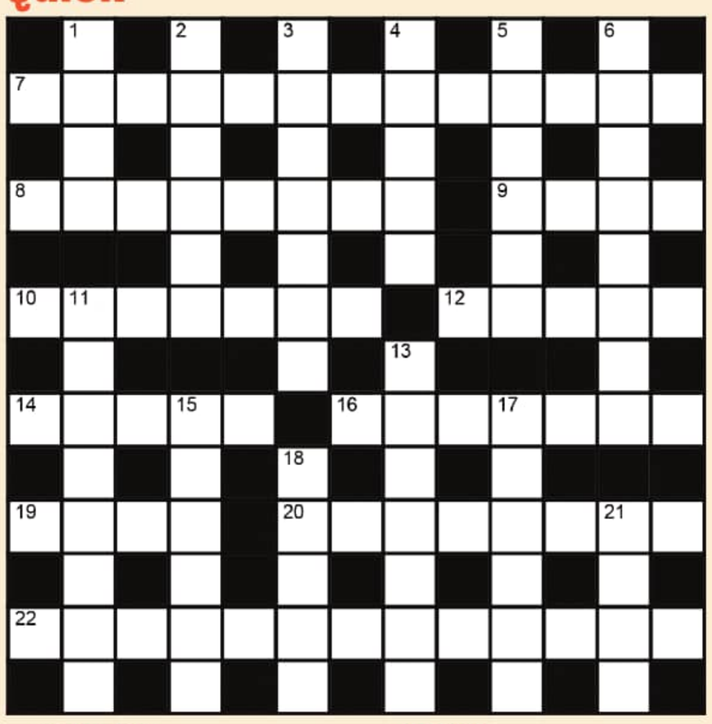
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 In a very illustratively pleasing way (13)
8 Male horse (8)
9 __ __ time : never? (2,2)
10 Pettifogger (7)
12 Cleverly humorous (5)
14 Stage whisper (5)
16 Violating a law of God (7)
19 Smear (4)
20 Fettered, not free (8)
22 Amusement (13)

DOWN

1 Dagger handle (4)
2 Record needle once (6)
3 Reaches a destination (7)
4 Collectively (2,3)
5 Karnataka lake home to a bird sanctuary (6)
6 Small floating organisms (8)
11 Earning one's living by illicit or unethical means (8)
13 Zeppelin (7)
15 Mended socks (6)
17 In my vicinity? (4,2)
18 A short friction match (5)
21 Many millennia (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS G

UXPOXLBKRE KPB P KPLOXL ANJ IN ON IKPT AYBI VKNNBX BROXB. RI FYBI JLRTS BROXB INSXIKXL.

Linemaro

This morning I saw a flower and I thought it was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen; until I met you

Mindchow

A library is infinity under a roof

Joke of the day

A lawyer with his briefcase can steal more than a hundred men with guns

Loop

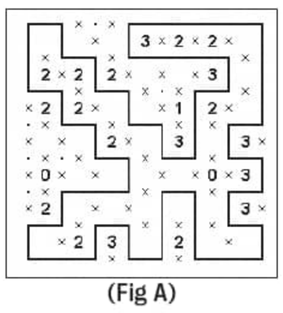
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

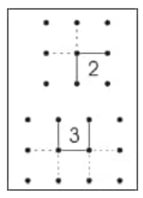
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

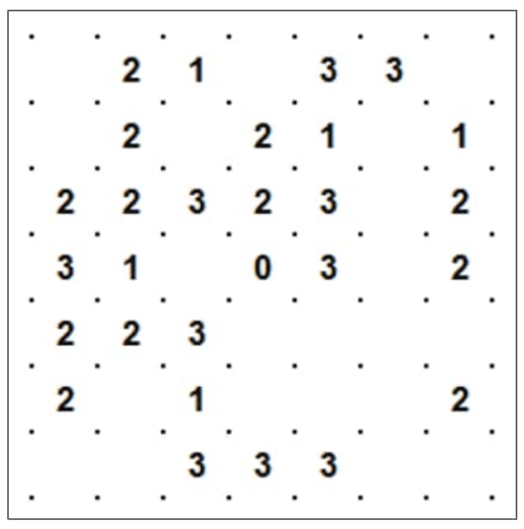
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



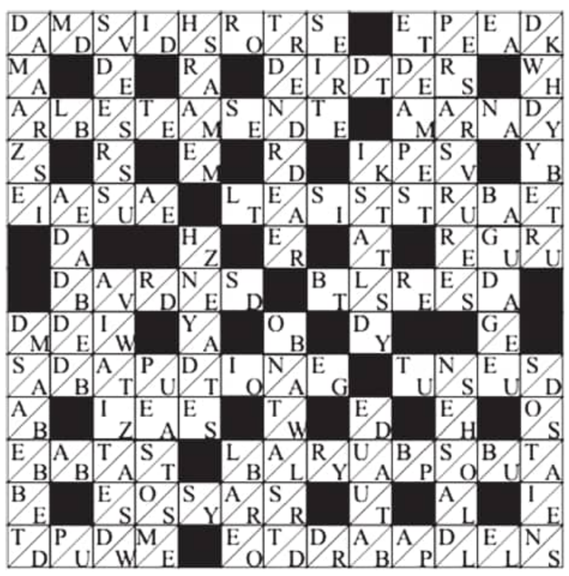
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8 K				
9				

ACROSS

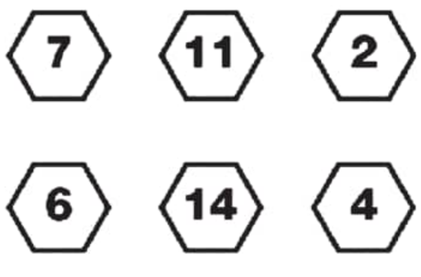
1 Sport; 6 Raree; 7 A rant; 8 Ganks; 9 Gage I

DOWN

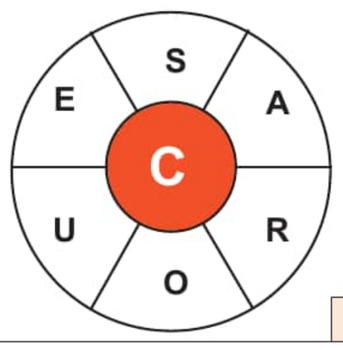
1 Apr KA; 2 Organ; 3 Grate; 4 Rig at; 5 Essen

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last hexagon?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; 17 Good; 19 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	3				2			
6				5	9		8	
7			4					3
1	6	3				4		
	5						3	
		4				1	7	8
3					1			6
	7		2	3				4
			7				5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

							= 13
5	6	7	7				

Medium

							= 36
2	7	9	9				

Hard

							= 24
6	6	8	6				

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

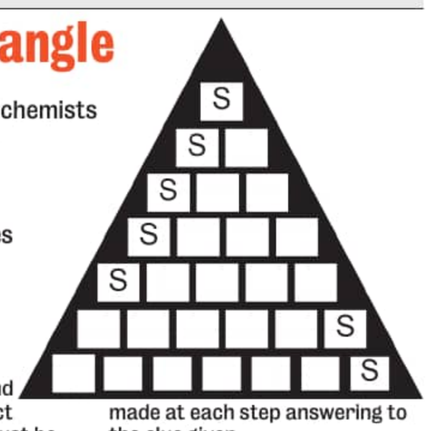
Differences: 1. Glasses are missing. 2. Pocket is higher. 3. Stripe on sleeve is moved. 4. Bracelet is different. 5. Window is different. 6. Thumb is moved.

Riddler

How a three becomes a nine. Three hearty meals on which you dine. With four you have a children's game Or sides exactly all the same. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Selenium for the chemists
3 Japanese money
4 Sound
5 Car style
6 Reparation
7 Two-seater cycles

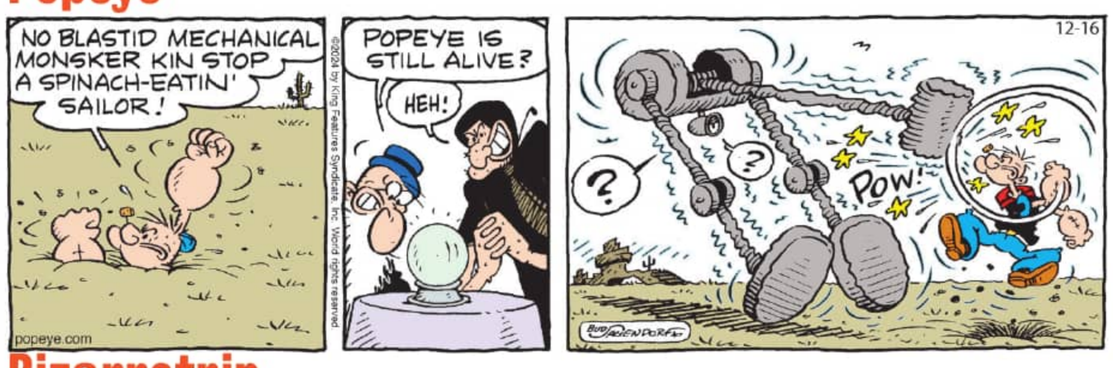


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Clearly, my client has no knowledge of the alleged conversation.
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Diamond Lil

I TRIED A NEW PLACE FOR LUNCH
IT'S CALLED ONLY BACON CHEESEBURGERS
WHAT DID YOU HAVE?
THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE
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Hart of the city

MAYBE MIDDLE SCHOOL ISN'T AS EASY AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE.
FIRST, I GET THE WORST TABLE AT LUNCH, THEN I MISS DRAMA CLUB SIGN-UPS, AND NOW I'M A FASHION DISASTER AS OF TEN MINUTES AGO.
AM I SPIRALING? THIS MUST BE WHAT SPIRALING FEELS LIKE.
THIS JUST ISN'T YOUR WEEK, IS IT?
AUUUGGHHH!!
D+
HEART OF THE CITY © 2020 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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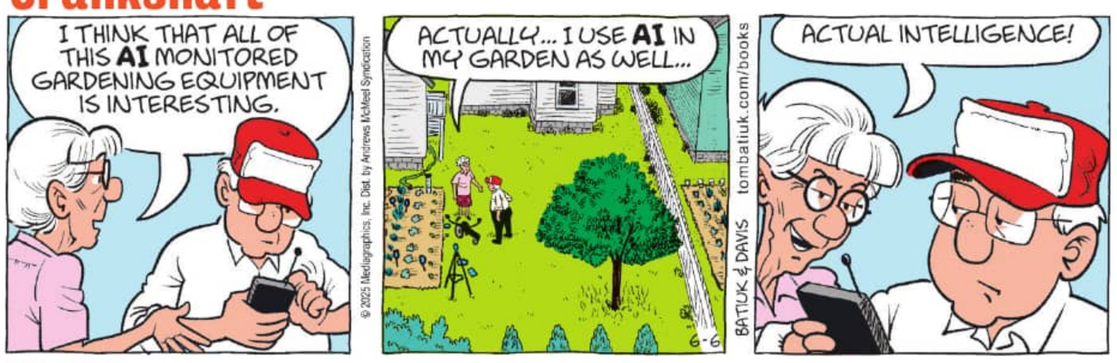
Crankshaft


I THINK THAT ALL OF THIS AI MONITORED GARDENING EQUIPMENT IS INTERESTING.
ACTUALLY... I USE AI IN MY GARDEN AS WELL...
ACTUAL INTELLIGENCE!
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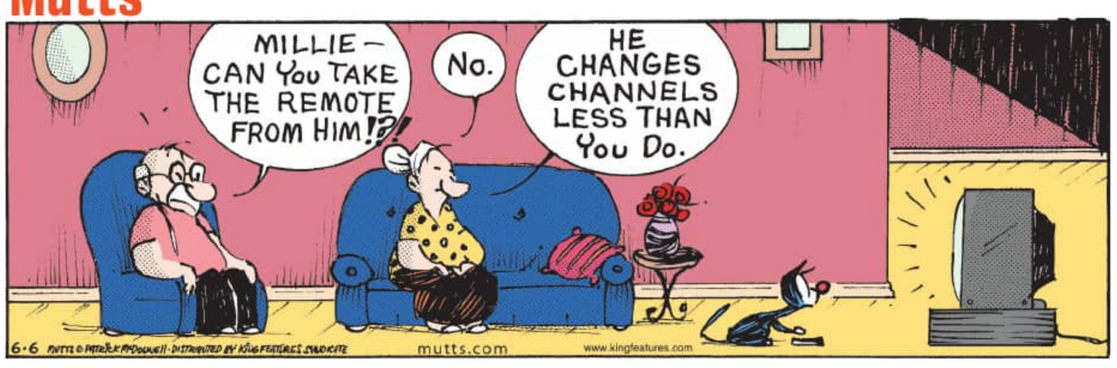
Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your birthday signals a promising journey. Finances strengthen with steady, planned decisions. Career growth follows when you embrace leadership opportunities. Love deepens through patience and compassionate actions. Luck shines on travel and exploration this year. Tip: Stay curious, seeking new experiences and perspectives will inspire innovation, broaden your horizons, and enrich your personal and professional life.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Exciting opportunities emerge, trust your instincts and pursue them boldly. This is your moment to shine. Collaboration brings success, while courage to step forward ensures lasting growth in both career and personal endeavors.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

You are stronger than you realize. Challenges transform into valuable lessons, guiding you toward emotional and financial stability. Remain patient and grounded, your persistence ensures steady progress and lasting fulfillment.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Social connections flourish. Seek out conversations that expand your perspective and spark inspiration. Sharing your ideas openly attracts support and creates meaningful opportunities for growth in personal and professional areas.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Peace comes from setting boundaries. Say no to draining situations and yes to self-care. Protecting your energy strengthens your relationships and fosters greater balance in your emotional and spiritual life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Your creativity shines brighter than ever. Explore hobbies or passion projects, these pursuits bring joy and recognition. Your natural charm draws people in, making this a perfect day for meaningful connections.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Progress feels steady and rewarding. Focus on long-term goals instead of rushing for instant results. Dedication and consistency lead to success, while patience ensures your efforts bring lasting, impactful change.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Balance work and relationships. Your charm eases difficult conversations, creating harmony in personal and professional spaces. Use this energy to strengthen bonds and resolve lingering tensions with grace and understanding.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Transformation continues, embrace it. Let go of outdated habits and welcome new possibilities. This renewal strengthens your confidence and helps you create deeper, more fulfilling connections in both love and friendships.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Adventure calls, embrace opportunities for exploration, whether through travel, learning, or trying something new. Broadening your horizons brings joy and expands your perspective, igniting your passion for growth and exciting discoveries.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Focus on practical solutions. Small, thoughtful steps bring stability and peace. Today's effort paves the way for meaningful achievements and builds a solid foundation for future personal and professional success.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Community involvement uplifts you. Collaborate with like-minded people to create meaningful change. Sharing your vision inspires others, building powerful connections and helping you bring innovative ideas into reality with collective strength.

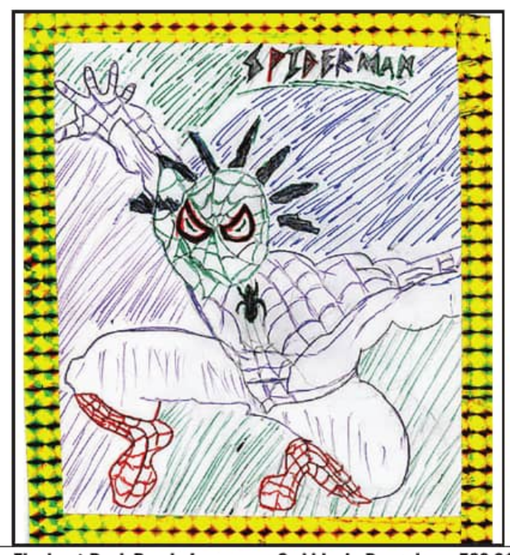
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Your intuition is your compass. Listen closely to your inner voice, it guides you toward healing decisions and opportunities. Trusting yourself ensures emotional clarity and paves the way for brighter possibilities.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Krish, Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

= (3⁴)^12/100+(3⁴)^13/100
= (3⁴)^25/100
= (3⁴)^1/4= 3

RIDDLER Square

STRIKE OUT

A	D	V	I	S	O	R	S		T	E	A	K		
M	E		A		E	I	D	E	R		H			
A	B	E	T	M	E	N	T		M	A	N	Y		
Z		R		E		D	I	P	S		B			
E	A	S	E		T	E	S	T	T	U	B	E		
D	U	D	E		O	D	D	B	A	L	L	S		

QUICK

		G		D		A		P		E		S		
E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N	M	E	N	T		
B	L	U	R		E	N	S	L	A	V	E	D		
T		A		V		R		E						
A	S	I	D	E		S	I	N	N	I	N	G		
		U				A		S		T	T	Y		
S	H	Y	S	T	E	R		W	I	T				
		U		V		E		V		K				
S	T	A	L	L	I	O	N		A	T	N	O		
L		Y		R		O		D		A				
P	I	C	T	U	R	E	S	Q	U	E	L	Y		
H		S		A		A		G		P				

MENSA PUZZLE

8. In each row, the middle value equals the sum of the left and right hand values, adding 2 for the top row, 4 for the middle row, and 6 for the bottom row.

QUOTE UNCODE

Leadership has a harder job to do than just choose sides. It must bring sides together.

SUDOKU

5	3	8	6	7	2	9	4	1
6	4	1	3	5	9	2	8	7
7	2	9	4	1	8	5	6	3
1	6	3	8	2	7	4	9	5
8	5	7	1	9	4	6	3	2
2	9	4	5	6	3	1	7	8
3	8	5	9	4	1	7	2	6
9	7	6	2	3	5	8	1	4
4	1	2	7	8	6	3	5	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE

S, Se, Sen, Sane, Sedan, Amends, Tandems.

GO FIGURE

Easy
7 + 7 + 5 − 6 = 13
Medium
2 − 7 + 9 x 9 = 36
Hard
6 + 6 − 8 x 6 = 24

LOOP

KAKURO

FAST FIVE

P	O	R	T	S
A	R	E	R	E
R	A	T	A	N
K	N	A	G	S
A	G	G	I	E

BULL'S EYE

acre, care, CAROUSE, case, cause, coarse, core, course, cure, sauce, saucer, scar, scare, score, scour, source

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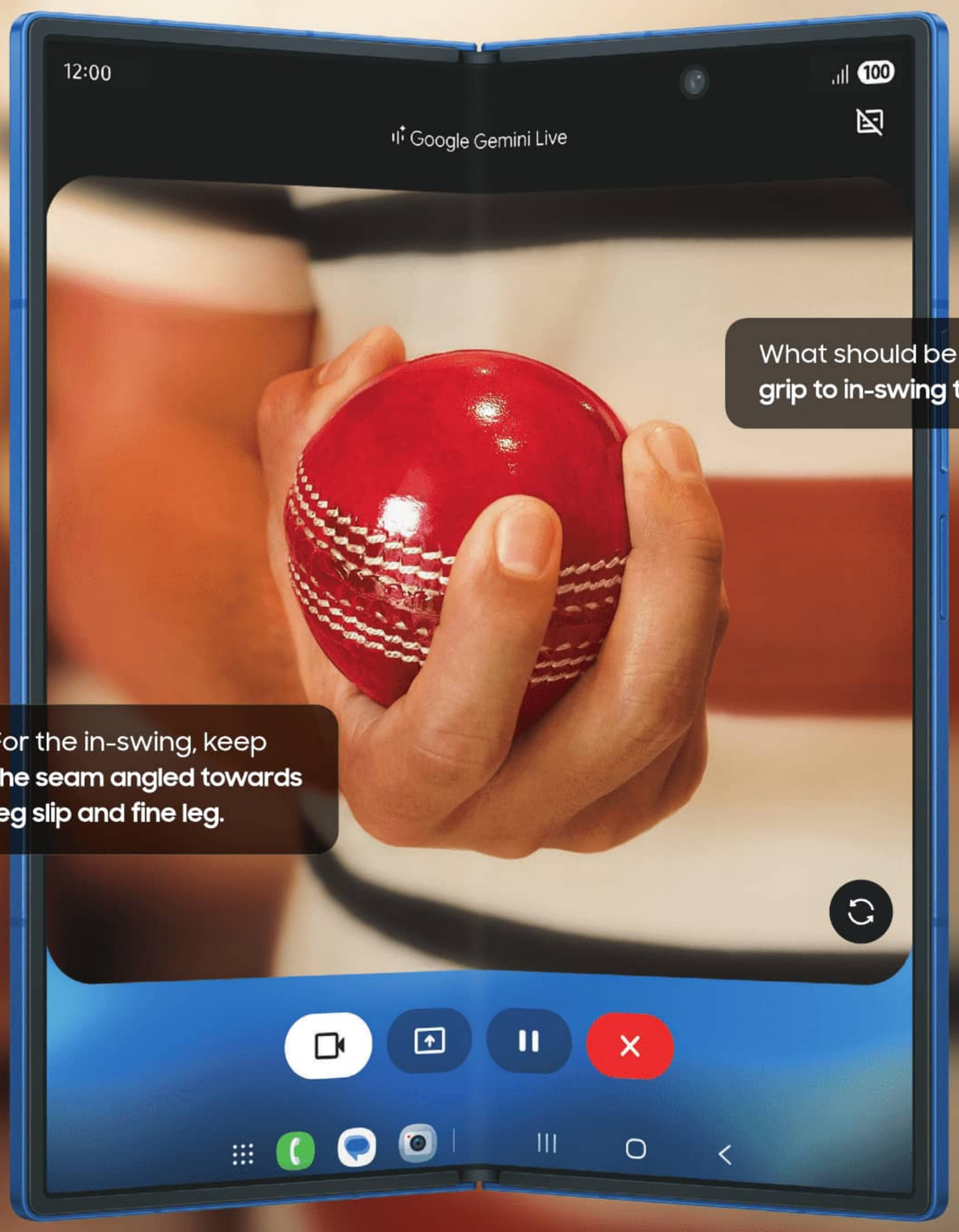
SAMSUNG

Galaxy Z Fold7

Got a question? Go live. Get answers.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100
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What should be the grip to in-swing this ball?
For the in-swing, keep the seam angled towards leg slip and fine leg.
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